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only by a special student of Celtic folk-lore. The mediæval writers were often more intent on style than on matter, more desirous to produce fine poems than to represent the true popular account of the incidents they relate ; modern traditions may therefore be of essential use in reconstructing the stories, as they were popularly told in the twelfth century, or earlier ; but, in many cases at least, such legends represent mediæval and Christian Ireland, not the primitive period.

The Gaelic text of Mr. Curtin's tales would be a very valuable addition to modern Irish literature ; and it is to be hoped that he will carry out his expressed purpose in printing the original texts of his excellent collection.

W. W. N.

ENGLISH FAIRY AND OTHER FOLK-TALES. Selected and edited, with an Introduction, by EDWIN SIDNEY HARTLAND. (Contained in the Camelot Series.) London : Walter Scott. 12mo, pp. xxiv., 282.

Mr. Hartland's volume presents a selection from the small number of printed English folk-tales. The collection is divided into Nursery Tales, Sagas, and Drolls. The Sagas are again distributed into Historical and Local, Giants, Fairies, the Devil and other Goblins, Witchcraft and Ghosts. The brief introduction states some of the problems relating to folk-tales, which the editor does not attempt, in his limited space, to discuss. The writer, in his introduction, makes a distinction between a Nursery Tale, or *Märchen*, and a Saga, holding that the latter is regarded as an actual narrative of fact, and is localized, being attributed to some particular man or some named deity. The localities attributed to nursery tales, on the contrary, are not intended to convey information, but given with a consciousness of invention. Again, as he considers, *Märchen* are intended for children. But these classes are variable, so that a tale which in one place is a Saga may in another be only a *Märchen*. Mr. Hartland gives very good reasons why English folk-tales are so few, and Welsh *Märchen* unknown. Folk-tales have been as plentiful in England as in any country, and no doubt as excellent ; they have vanished solely from want of collection, being superseded by tales of literary origin more conformable in character to modern taste, while no doubt, as Mr. Hartland suggests, the absence of Welsh nursery tales is owing to the narrow religious tendency of the people. Mr. Hartland's collection is useful as presenting a conspectus of the relics of English tales, while, alas ! displaying their pitiable paucity and inferiority. It is certainly interesting to see the name of Walter Scott attached to a book on popular traditions, though in the capacity of publisher.

W. W. N.

FLOWERS FROM A PERSIAN GARDEN, AND OTHER PAPERS. By W. A. CLOUSTON, author of "Popular Tales and Fictions," "Book of Noodles," etc. London : David Nutt, 270 Strand. 1890. 8vo, pp. vii., 368.

The dainty appearance of Mr. Clouston's pleasing book corresponds to the statement of the author in his dedication — addressed to Mr. Sidney